

# Report from Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers

Submitted by Craig Coburn, President ([craig.coburn@uleth.ca](mailto:craig.coburn@uleth.ca))

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Please find below the annual report from the Western Division, Canadian Association of Geographers. In this report you will find a summary of our activities in this COVID affected year. I have included notes from Executive meetings and a report from the AGM that was held in April. Details of the current Executive are also provided. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Report from the WDCAG Annual Meeting

Despite our greatest effort, there was no department willing to host our Annual Meeting. The continued threat caused by the COVID-19 pandemic created travel complications and with unprecedented cuts to post-secondary education in Alberta, departments were not in a position to offer to host this meeting. We moved the student presentation element of our conference to a three-minute thesis (3MT) presentation competition hosted within departments. Departments then had the opportunity to send their best students to a final presentation competition judged by the executive of the WDCAG at our Annual General Meeting. There were 4 presentations from two universities and we were happy to be able to support these outstanding students with memberships in the CAG and a small cash prize.

The winners were:

Rajneel Reddy and Abigail Riddolls

Presentation Title: Geochemistry of Clayburn and Stoney Creek in Abbotsford, British Columbia  
University of the Fraser Valley

Roshanne Sihota

Presentation Title: Gene Editing Solutions for Vector-Borne Disease: Debates in a Canadian Context  
University of Calgary

Ibrahim Taleb

Presentation title: Bringing Communities to Life- A Tactical Urbanism Proposal  
University of Calgary

The WDCAG Executive are still looking for a host institution for the 2023 meeting.

## Notes from Executive Meetings

The WDCAG Executive met virtually over the year to ensure there was a continuity of business. The relocation of the financial side of the division has reduced the effort in running the division. Other than the usual discussion about continuation of various regional activities (newsletter, journal etc.) little else was discussed outside of securing the executive (who agreed to extensions of positions) and finding a host for the 2023 Annual Meeting. We appreciate the assistance from Kathryn Laferriere at CAG Head Office with this move and ongoing financial assistance.

## WDCAG Executive 2022-2023

The following comprises the Executive Committee for the WDCAG for the coming year.

- Past President – Vacant
- President – Craig Coburn (ULeth) (2021-2023)
- Vice-President – not required
- Secretary-Treasurer – Henry Frew, Carrick Consulting (2021-2023)
- Members-at-Large
  - Tom Waldichuck, TRU (2020-2023)
  - Joanne Moyer, Kings (2020-2023)
  - Terry Day, Okanagan College (2021-2023)
  - Julie Young, ULeth (2021-2023)
- Student Representatives (2-4)
  - Alberta – Nick Noad (ULeth), Sean Herrige-Berry (ULeth)
  - British Columbia – Melina Sorensen (RRU), Glen Thielmann (UNBC)
- Western Geography Human Editor –Joanne Moyer (Kings)
- Western Geography Physical/GIS Editor – Craig Coburn (ULeth)
- Archivist – vacant
- Awards Officer – David Jordan (TWU)
- BC Education Chair – Pam Shaw (VIU); Tom Waldichuk (TRU); Glenn Thielmann (UNBC)
- Newsletter Editor – Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic)
- Webmaster – Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic)